

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W
-----050258 200052Z /64

R 181657Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4176
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 3738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SG, KN, KS
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VISIT TO SENEGAL UNPRODUCTIVE

REF: DAKAR 3215

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL VISIT BY LARGE DPRK PARTY HEADED BY
VICE PRESIDENT KANG YANG-UK WAS LARGELY COURTESY AND
CEREMONIAL AFFAIR WHICH PRODUCED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE.
SENEGALESE SAY NORTH KOREANS INVITED THEMSELVES, AND SOUTH
KOREANS ARE PLEASED WITH CHILLY RECEPTION ACCORDED
DELEGATION. THIS IS LATEST EVIDENCE OF GRADUAL SENEGALESE
DETACHMENT FROM NORTH KOREAN EMBRACE WHICH RESULTED
FROM SENGHOR'S 1974 PYONGYANG VISIT. SOUTH KOREAN
AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR IS LEAVING FOR FINLAND WITH SUBSTANTIAL
SATISFACTION AT EVOLUTION IN SENEGALESE POSITION OVER PAST
FOUR YEARS. END SUMMARY.

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NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT
KANG YANG-UK MADE THREE-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL MAY 10-12.
PARTY OF SOME FORTY PERSONS INCLUDING CREW AND SECURITY
PERSONNEL WAS TRAVELLING IN SPECIAL NORTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT.
KANG YANG-UK WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND PRIME
MINISTER DIOUF AND GUEST AT DINNER HOSTED BY MAGATTE LO,

PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (FOURTH FROM TOP IN SENEGALESE PROTOCOL). DURING VISIT DPRK AMBASSADOR HWANG TCHEUL SOU AND ASSANE SECK, SENEGALESE MINISTER OF CULTURE, SIGNED TWO-YEAR ACCORD ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

3. VISIT TOOK PLACE AFTER SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CHI RECEIVED SENEGALESE ASSURANCES (REFTEL) THAT IT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. HOWEVER, IN MAY 15 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR, CHI WAS INFORMED THAT VISIT RESULTED FROM UNILATERAL NORTH KOREAN NOTIFICATION, NOT FROM SENEGALESE INVITATION. SENEGALESE DESCRIBE AUDIENCES WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER AS PERFUNCTORY COURTESY CALLS AND LO DINNER AS CEREMONIAL WITH NO DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE. DELEGATION WAS NOT RECEIVED BY SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER. CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED DURING VISIT IS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE, SINCE ANY ACTIVITIES PROPOSED IN THIS AREA WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED INDIVIDUALLY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. ROK AMBASSADOR POINTEDLY HAD MINISTER SECK TO DINNER IN MIDST OF DPRK VISIT. THERE WAS NO COMMUNIQUE AND ONLY MODEST PRESS COVERAGE LIMITED MOSTLY TO ANODYNE REFERENCES TO BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SUSPECTS ONE PURPOSE OF VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN TO PURSUE BILATERAL CIVIL AGREEMENT, BUT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO UNCOVER ANY EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS DISCUSSED.

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4. SOUTH KOREANS ARE ACCORDINGLY PLEASED WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS CHILLY RECEPTION GIVEN NORTH KOREAN VIP AND WITH IRRITATION WHICH VISIT CAUSED SENEGALESE. AMBASSADOR CHI, WHO DEPARTS IN JUNE ON REASSIGNMENT TO FINLAND, HAS SUCCESSFUL FOUR-YEAR TOUR TO LOOK BACK ON WHICH BEGAN WITH SENEGALESE ENDORSEMENT OF NORTH KOREAN POSITIONS AND CO-SPONSORSHIP OF DPRK UNGA RESOLUTIONS WHICH RESULTED FROM SENGHOR'S 1974 PYONGYANG VISIT. THOUGH THEY HAVE FELT BOUND BY COMMITMENTS MADE IN 1974, SENEGALESE HAVE GRADUALLY MOVED INTO MUCH MORE EVEN-HANDED POSTURE. ONE BENCHMARK WAS LAST YEAR'S VISIT BY NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER (77 DAKAR 0574) WHICH ALMOST BROKE DOWN IN WRANGLING OVER JOINT COMMUNIQUE HE DEMANDED FROM SENEGALESE; PRESS STATEMENT EVENTUALLY EMERGED IN WHICH FOREIGN MINISTERS-- BUT NOT GOVERNMENTS-- AGREED TO RESPECT SCRUPULOUSLY 1974 ACCORDS. IN LATEST VISIT, SENEGALESE WERE ADAMANT THAT THERE BE NO JOINT STATEMENT OF ANY KIND, AND NO PUBLIC REFERENCE WAS MADE TO 1974 VISIT OR ACCORDS. MASSIVE NORTH KOREAN-ORCHESTRATED GYMNASTIC AND FLASH-CARD DISPLAYS HAVE ALSO BEEN ABSENT FROM SENEGALESE NATIONAL DAY FESTIVITIES FOR TWO YEARS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 3738

5. CHI ATTRIBUTES PROGRESS IN MODERATING SENEGALESE POSITION ON KOREA PARTIALLY TO COMBINATION OF US AND ROK DIPLOMACY, BUT EVEN MORE TO DPRK BLUNDERS INCLUDING HIGH-HANDED WAY THEY HAVE HANDLED VISITS TO SENEGAL AND ESPECIALLY NORTH KOREA'S RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO MOVEMENT IN WESTERN SAHARA WHICH SENEGAL CONSIDERS RACIST AND IMPERIALIST EFFORT TO OVERTHROW FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR.

6. FOR EMBASSY HELSINKI: WE RECOMMEND AMBASSADOR CHI AS FORTHCOMING CONTACT AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL AND EFFECTIVE DIPLOMAT. HE IS INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH U.S., WHERE HIS CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL, AND HAS BEEN GOOD FRIEND OF AMERICAN FAMILIES IN DAKAR.
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